

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for managing an office product supply chain utilizing a network,  
2 comprising:
  - 3 a) receiving data from a plurality of office product outlets of an office product  
4 supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of office products by  
5 the office product outlets;
  - 6 b) generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering office products  
7 from an office product distributor of the office product supply chain;
  - 8 c) transmitting the data to the office product distributor of the office product supply  
9 chain utilizing the network;
  - 10 d) transmitting the data to an office product supplier of the office product supply  
11 chain utilizing the network; and
  - 12 e) forecasting activity in the office product supply chain utilizing the data.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data is parsed to match each of a plurality of  
2 office product distributors and office product suppliers.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the data is made accessible to the office product  
2 outlets, the office product distributor, the office product supplier via a network-  
3 based interface.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the data is accessible to the office product  
2 distributor and the office product supplier only after verification of an identity  
3 thereof.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the office product outlets, the office product  
2 distributor, and the office product supplier each forecast utilizing the data.
- 1 7. A system for managing an office product supply chain utilizing a network,  
2 comprising:
- 3 a) logic for receiving data from a plurality of office product outlets of an office  
4 product supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of office  
5 product by the office product outlets;
- 6 b) logic for generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering office  
7 product from an office product distributor of the office product supply chain;
- 8 c) logic for transmitting the data to the office product distributor of the office  
9 product supply chain utilizing the network;
- 10 d) logic for transmitting the data to an office product supplier of the office product  
11 supply chain utilizing the network; and
- 12 e) logic for forecasting activity in the office product supply chain utilizing the data.
- 1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the data is parsed to match each of a plurality of  
2 office product distributors and office product suppliers.
- 1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the data is made accessible to the office product  
2 outlets, the office product distributor, the office product supplier via a network-  
3 based interface.
- 1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the data is accessible to the office product  
2 distributor and the office product supplier only after verification of an identity  
3 thereof.
- 1 11. The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.
- 1 12. The system of claim 7, wherein the office product outlets, the office product  
2 distributor, and the office product supplier each forecast utilizing the data.

- 1 13. A computer program product for managing an office product supply chain  
2 utilizing a network, comprising:  
3 a) computer code for receiving data from a plurality of office product outlets of an  
4 office product supply chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of  
5 office product by the office product outlets;  
6 b) computer code for generating an electronic order form based on the data for  
7 ordering office product from an office product distributor of the office product  
8 supply chain;  
9 c) computer code for transmitting the data to the office product distributor of the  
10 office product supply chain utilizing the network;  
11 d) computer code for transmitting the data to an office product supplier of the office  
12 product supply chain utilizing the network; and  
13 e) computer code for forecasting activity in the office product supply chain utilizing  
14 the data.

- 1 14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the data is parsed to match  
2 each of a plurality of office product distributors and office product suppliers.

- 1 15. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein the data is made accessible  
2 to the office product outlets, the office product distributor, the office product  
3 supplier via a network-based interface.

- 1 16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the data is accessible to the  
2 office product distributor and the office product supplier only after verification of  
3 an identity thereof.

- 1 17. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the  
2 Internet.

- 1 18. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the office product outlets,
- 2 the office product distributor, and the office product supplier each forecast
- 3 utilizing the data.

18. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the office product outlets,